



United States Department of Agriculture

Weston County Farm Service
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PROGRAM(ACRE) SIGNUP DEADLINE

The extension of the 2013 Farm Bill included the DCP/ACRE Programs for another year. Signup for the DCP is currently underway and will continue through August 2, 2013. For those producers who are interested in participating in the ACRE Program, in lieu of DCP, must enroll by June 3, 2013. The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).

2013 CROP REPORTING DEADLINE

The final date in which producers have to complete their 2013 crop reports is July 15, 2013. Annual reporting of all crops, (annual and perennial) is a requirement for producers participating in any of the following programs: DCP, ACRE, Conservation Reserve Program, Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, and Non-Insurable Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Please notify the office as soon as possible to set up a time to complete your crop reports.

FARM AND RANCH CHANGES

In order for us to properly and accurately administer farm programs, it is very important that we have current records of the owners and operators of all farms and/or ranches. Owners and operators are asked to report changes in farming or ranching operations to this office. This may include the purchase or sale of a farm or ranch or the rental of a farm that you did not have an interest in last year. In order for farms that participate in DCP/ACRE to be reconstituted for FY2013, the last day that a change may be requested is August 1, 2013. Any requests after August 1, 2013, will not become effective until after October 1, 2014. It is also imperative that name changes be reported to the county office, (examples could be changing from an individual to an entity or one entity type to another entity). This is critical if you will be receiving payments either from FSA or NRCS.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUP

A general sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program began on May 20, 2013 and ends on June 14, 2013. In addition to the general sign-up, there is a restart of sign-up for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives. Sign-up for Continuous CRP began May 13, 2013 and will continue through September 30, 2013.

CRP is an important sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Through voluntary participation of our farmers and ranchers, CRP help us to protect our natural resources, preserve wildlife habitat and bring good paying jobs to rural America related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. CRP has a 27-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Offers for general sign-up CRP contracts are ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. FSA uses the following factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered: Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage; water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching; on-farm benefits from reduced erosion; benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period; air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and cost.

Environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Offers are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Offers for Continuous CRP sign-up are not subject to competitive bidding. FSA provides CRP continuous sign-up participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentives and cost-share assistance: Rental Payments; return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent or cash rent equivalent as guidelines; per-acre annual rental rate may not exceed the calculated rate determined in advance of enrollment. While continuous sign-up acceptance is not determined by a competitive offer process, producers may elect to receive an amount less than the maximum payment rate; cost-share assistance; an upfront signing incentive payment (SIP) up to \$150 per acre; the one-time SIP will be made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met and; a practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs for eligible participants who enroll certain practices. The one-time PIP will be issued after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met. To be eligible for CRP continuous sign-up enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to submitting the offer, unless: the new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death; the ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption

in accordance with state law or; the circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP. The land must be eligible and suitable for any of the following conservation practices: riparian buffers; wildlife habitat buffers; wetland buffers; filter strips; wetland restoration; grass waterways; shelterbelts; living snow fences; contour grass strips; constructed wetlands; restoration of aquaculture wetlands; wildlife habitat restoration within approved State Areas for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) projects; salt tolerant vegetation or; shallow water areas for wildlife.